

Memorandum



Date: January 17, 2020

To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A blue ink signature of Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County.

Subject: Pre-Election Report for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election

This memorandum has been prepared in accordance with Ordinance 13-13 and Section 12-1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County. Prior to each General or Primary election, a report including information regarding voter turnout, voting methods and processes, equipment, resources and other issues must be sent to the Board of County Commissioners. This report highlights information in preparation for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election.

Voter participation in a Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) Election varies and depends upon issues such as whether there is an incumbent President running for office, both major parties are participating and whether there is additional ballot content for No Party Affiliation (NPA)/minor party voters. These factors make turnout for this type of election cyclical.

This is a closed Primary Election to include an incumbent President without ballot content for NPA/minor party voters (except for the Town of Surfside). As such, turnout is expected to be lower than in 2016. However, since voter turnout continues to increase with each election year, it is anticipated to be higher than the 2012 PPP Election and is estimated at approximately 20 percent of Miami-Dade voters. The Early Voting and Election Day experience has been improved by identifying the bottlenecks and other issues that have been problems in the past. Given the technical and operational enhancements implemented in recent years and as voters will be receiving only a one-page ballot, lengthy wait times are not anticipated.

Voter distribution patterns continue to shift gradually with each election cycle. As with previous elections, more than 60 percent of the county's participating voters are projected to cast their ballot prior to Election Day, via Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballot or Early Voting. There are more than 240,000 VBM requests on file. VBM ballots will be mailed on January 31st to overseas voters and on February 13th to domestic voters. The last day to request a VBM ballot for this election is Saturday, March 7th by 5:00 p.m. and the last VBM ballots will be mailed to voters on Monday, March 9th. Completed VBM Ballots must be received by the Department no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day to be accepted as valid.

Early Voting will be available at 23 sites located throughout the County, including the three sites added during the last election cycle at local colleges and universities. We will offer the maximum days under the law, running from March 2nd through March 15th, and will be open eight (8) hours per day, as early as 7:00 a.m. to as late as 7:00 p.m., depending on the day/week to provide maximum flexibility for voters.

Voters who prefer to wait until Election Day must go to their assigned voting location between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Additional information regarding the equipment that will be utilized at each Early Voting and Election Day location, along with additional details including the number of registered voters, recent law changes, poll worker training, Election Night reporting and sample ballots are provided by Supervisor of Elections Christina White in the attached memorandum (Attachment). Please contact Christina White at 305-499-8509 if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachment

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First County Attorney
Jennifer Moon, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Linda L. Cave, Clerk of the Board

Memorandum



Date: January 13, 2020

To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

From: Christina White
Supervisor of Elections

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina White", written over the printed name.

Subject: March 17, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election

The Elections Department's (Department) preparations are well underway for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election. Miami-Dade voters continue to have three ways to vote: through the convenience of Vote by Mail, 14 days of Early Voting (Attachment 1A) and at their Election Day precinct. All facets of election planning are on target and we are well-positioned for another successful election. We continue to encourage voters to "Be Election Ready" by disseminating important information through social and local media outlets.

Below is additional information pertaining to the upcoming election, including recent law changes:

"Closed Primary" Election and Other Ballot Content

Florida law permits only voters who are registered members of a political party to vote for their respective party's candidates in a Primary Election. A key message for this election is to urge voters to confirm their party affiliation, make any changes prior to the February 18th "book closing" date, if a party change is wanted, and ensure voters understand whether they are eligible for this type of election.

While the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) is a countywide election, there is no ballot content for voters with No Party Affiliation (NPA) or voters registered with a minor party. Only voters who are registered Republicans and registered Democrats participate in this election to choose their respective party's nominee for the Office of President.

The exception is the Town of Surfside, which has local races on the ballot. Therefore, all voters of Surfside are eligible to vote regardless of party affiliation.

As such, there are five ballot variations throughout the County. All ballots are one page, single-sided. A document containing all ballot content can be found on the Department's website (Attachment 1B), as we finalize the Official Sample Ballot described below.

Voter Registration

There are currently 1,453,782 eligible voters in Miami-Dade County, broken down below by political party. This number will continue to change as additional voter registration applications are received by the February 18th deadline.

- Democrats 603,506
- Republicans 380,525
- No Party Affiliation 458,473
- Other 11,278

The Elections Headquarters in Doral will be open from 8:00 a.m. until midnight and the Stephen P. Clark Center satellite office will be open from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on February 18th as an added convenience for those who wait until the last minute to register to vote or wish to change their party affiliation. Any voter registration application postmarked or received at an official Voter Registration Agency by the February 18th deadline will be accepted as valid for this election.

Recent Law Changes

As of January 1, 2020, Florida Statutes required that all voting, including voting by disabled voters, be conducted on a ballot that has a paper record that can be verified by the voter. In response, the Department spent the latter part of 2019 ensuring compliance. This necessitated an upgrade to the Department's election coding, tabulation software and results transmission methodologies, upgrade of the high-speed ballot scanners in the tabulation room, replacement of the voting units used by voters with a disability and training poll workers on the new equipment.

This was a tremendous undertaking in a short timeframe. We are fortunate to conduct several municipal elections in late 2019 and early 2020 to implement new protocols and ensure staff and poll workers are knowledgeable and experienced for the upcoming PPP.

As of July 1, 2019, there are also law changes as it relates to Vote by Mail:

- The last day to request a Vote by Mail ballot moved back from the sixth day prior to the election to the 10th day prior to election.
- The last day for the Department to mail a Vote by Mail by moved back from the fourth day prior to the election to the eighth day prior to election.
- Voters who provide the Department with contact information will be notified of a signature deficiency or missing signature and be given the opportunity to "cure" the deficiency by submitting an Affidavit to the Department.
- The deadline to submit the Cure Affidavit is 5:00 p.m. on the second day following the election.
- Voters are now permitted to return his/her own Vote-by-Mail ballot via secure drop box at all Early Voting locations during hours of operation.

Poll Worker Training

Since poll workers are the face of the Department, we continually review the training curriculum to ensure that poll workers are properly prepared and ready to serve. Assisting voters and increasing their confidence is integral to our success. Emphasis continues to be placed on hands-on training and customer service. The training curriculum runs from approximately January 21st through February 28th and includes Saturdays.

Election Results Reporting

Election night results will be transmitted directly from voting locations to Elections Headquarters. This methodology has improved the timing of results by eliminating the drive time from the voting location to collection center miles away. However, all appropriate closing procedures must be undertaken before results are transmitted to Elections Headquarters.

Invariably, there will be several voting locations that experience connection issues while attempting to transmit. In these instances, the contingency plan is to default to traditional means whereby they are driven to and transmitted from our Collection Centers.

Our website remains the most effective outlet to obtain up-to-the-minute Election Night results. We expect to release results as follows:

- Vote-by-Mail ballots received prior to Election Day – 7:15 p.m.
- Early Voting results – 7:30 p.m.
- Subsequently, there will be periodic updated results approximately every 30 minutes through completion.
- The number of releases will vary based on polls closing (any voter in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to vote) and reconciliation procedures.

The goal is to have final unofficial results on Election Night by midnight, as with previous countywide elections.

The laws regarding Results Reporting were revised in the last legislative session: As noted above, the deadline for voters to submit a Cure Affidavit was extended to 5:00 p.m. on the second day following the election. Ballots will continue to be reviewed and results uploaded to the website on the first and second day following the election, as directed by the Miami-Dade County Canvassing Board. All pending Vote by Mail and Provisional ballots accepted by the Canvassing Board will be included in the first set of unofficial results.

Sample Ballot — Prepare Ahead of Time

As with any election, voter preparedness is a determining factor in the amount of time an elector spends at a privacy booth and the overall voting experience. Therefore, voters are encouraged to review their customized Sample Ballot on the Elections Department's website before casting their ballot. This is by far the best way to prepare in advance. The Department will be heavily promoting the benefits of downloading this personalized version of the Sample Ballot to expedite the voting experience at the polls for Miami-Dade County voters. This capability is expected to be available on January 15th.

In addition, the Official Sample Ballot will be distributed in English, Spanish, and Creole as an insert in The Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald on Sunday, March 1st, right before the start of Early Voting. Moreover, it will be advertised in all three languages in various community periodicals. It will contain the names of the Republican and Democratic candidates, the Early Voting schedule, and information on the three ways to vote. Copies will also be available in public libraries, County facilities and Commission offices beginning the week of February 18th. An electronic copy will be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners and posted online as soon as it is finalized.

Election Day Polling Places

As is typical in major elections, some polling places used in the past will not be available for this election. In these cases, alternate sites have been identified that are equally convenient and accessible to the voters. The Department is still in the process of confirming locations. This list will be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners as soon as it is finalized.

Voters affected by a change in their Election Day voting location will be notified as follows:

- Voters assigned to a temporary voting location (one that will only be utilized for this election) will receive an official notice by mail.
- Voters assigned to a new permanent voting location (one that will continue to be utilized for all future elections) will receive a letter indicating the new voting location and a new Voter Information Card with the new voting location name and address.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION 3/17/2020

ATTACHMENT 1A

MARCH 2 ND	MARCH 3 RD	MARCH 4 TH	MARCH 5 TH	MARCH 6 TH	MARCH 7 TH	MARCH 8 TH
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:00AM – 3:00PM	7:00AM – 3:00PM	7:00AM – 3:00PM	7:00AM – 3:00PM	7:00AM – 3:00PM	8:00AM – 4:00PM	8:00AM – 4:00PM
MARCH 9 TH	MARCH 10 TH	MARCH 11 TH	MARCH 12 TH	MARCH 13 TH	MARCH 14 TH	MARCH 15 TH
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
11:00AM – 7:00PM	11:00AM – 7:00PM	11:00AM – 7:00PM	11:00AM – 7:00PM	11:00AM – 7:00PM	8:00AM – 4:00PM	8:00AM – 4:00PM

Site Name & Address		Site Name & Address		Site Name & Address	
Coral Gables Branch Library 3443 Segovia Street Coral Gables, FL 33134		Kendall Branch Library 9101 SW 97 TH Avenue Miami, FL 33176		North Shore Branch Library 7501 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, FL 33141	
Coral Reef Branch Library 9211 SW 152 ND Street Miami, FL 33157		Lemon City Library 430 NE 61 ST Street Miami, FL 33137		Northeast Dade-Aventura Branch Library 2930 Aventura Boulevard Aventura, FL 33180	
Elections Department (Main Office) 2700 NW 87 TH Avenue Doral, FL 33172		Miami Beach City Hall 1700 Convention Center Drive Miami Beach, FL 33139		South Dade Regional Library 10750 SW 211 TH Street Cutler Bay, FL 33189	
Florida International University (Student Academic Success Center) 11200 SW 8 TH Street Miami, FL 33199		Miami Dade College Kendall Campus (The Fassel Conference Center) 11011 SW 104 TH Street - Building K Miami, FL 33176		Stephen P. Clark Gov't Center (Elections Branch Office) 111 NW 1 ST Street (Lobby) Miami, FL 33128	
Historic Garage 3250 S Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129 (Same property as the former Museum of Science – as you enter on the right hand side)		(Entrance on SW 104 TH Street and SW 113 TH Place) Miami Dade College North Campus (Library) 11380 NW 27 TH Avenue - Building 2 Miami, FL 33167		West Dade Regional Library 9445 SW 24 TH Street Miami, FL 33165	
Homestead Community Center (William F. "Bill" Dickinson Community Center) 1601 N. Krome Avenue Homestead, FL 33030		Miami Lakes Community Center (Mary Collins Community Center) 15151 NW 82 ND Avenue Miami Lakes, FL 33016		West Kendall Regional Library 10201 Hammocks Boulevard Miami, FL 33196	
John F. Kennedy Library 190 W 49 TH Street Hialeah, FL 33012		North Dade Regional Library 2455 NW 183 RD Street Miami Gardens, FL 33056		West Miami Community Center 901 SW 62 ND Avenue West Miami, FL 33144	
Joseph Caleb Center Community Meeting Room 5400 NW 22 ND Avenue - Building A Miami, FL 33142		North Miami Public Library 835 NE 132 ND Street North Miami, FL 33161			

REP

Official Presidential Preference Primary Election Ballot
 March 17, 2020
 Republican Party
 Miami-Dade County, Florida
 Boleta Oficial de las Elecciones Primarias de Preferencia Presidencial
 17 de marzo del 2020
 Partido Republicano
 Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida
 Bilten Vòt Ofisyèl Eleksyon Primè Preferans Prezidansyèl
 17 mas 2020
 Pati Repibliken
 Konte Miami-Dade, Florid

President Presidente Prezidan (Vote for 1 / Vote por 1 / Vote pou 1)

Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente	10
Donald J. Trump	11
Joe Walsh	12
Bill Weld	13

DEM

Official Presidential Preference Primary Election Ballot
 March 17, 2020
 Democratic Party
 Miami-Dade County, Florida
 Boleta Oficial de las Elecciones Primarias de Preferencia Presidencial
 17 de marzo del 2020
 Partido Demócrata
 Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida
 Bilten Vòt Ofisyèl Eleksyon Primè Preferans Prezidansyèl
 17 mas 2020
 Pati Demokrat
 Konte Miami-Dade, Florid

President Presidente Prezidan (Vote for 1 / Vote por 1 / Vote pou 1)

Michael Bennet	20
Joe Biden	21
Michael R. Bloomberg	22
Cory Booker	23
Pete Buttigieg	24
Julián Castro	25
John Delaney	26
Tulsi Gabbard	27
Amy Klobuchar	28
Deval Patrick	29
Bernie Sanders	30
Joe Sestak	31
Tom Steyer	32
Elizabeth Warren	33
Marianne Williamson	34
Andrew Yang	35

NP

Official Nonpartisan Ballot
March 17, 2020
Miami-Dade County, Florida
Boleta Oficial No Partidista
17 de marzo del 2020
Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida
Bilten Vòt Ofisyèl San Pati Politik
17 mas 2020
Konte Miami-Dade, Florid

Surfside – Mayor
Surfside – Alcalde
Surfside – Majistra
 (Vote for 1 / Vote por 1 / Vote pou 1)

Charles W. Burkett	40
Daniel Dietch	41
Victor May	42

Surfside – Office of Town Commissioner
Surfside – Cargo de Comisionado del Municipio
Surfside – Pòs Komisyonè Minisipal
 (Vote for up to 4 / Vote por hasta 4 / Vote pou jiska 4)

Shlomo Danzinger	50
Daniel Gielchinsky	51
Iris Herssein	52
Ben Jacobson	53
Michael Karukin	54
Charles Kesl	55
Tina Paul	56
Eliana R. Salzhauer	57
Nelly Velasquez	58